

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 05371 122138Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 OES-07 EB-08 IGA-02 /037 W
-----066037 122204Z /12

P 122105Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7234
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS KINGSTON 5371

FOR: CLIFFORD BLOCK/TAB AND LA/DR/EST

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY SATELLITE DEMONSTRATION - UWI
DEVELOPMENT OUTREACH PROGRAM

REFERENCE: STATE 211607

1. COPY OF REFTEL WAS CONVEYED UWI UPON RECEIPT FOR THEIR REVIEW AND COMMENTS. RESPONSE THROUGH PRO-VICE CHANCELLOR LALOR WAS ONE OF "SURPRISE" AND "DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT". ACCORDING TO UWI, THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH DENNIS FOOTE BROUGHT OUT NO INDICATION THAT THERE MIGHT BE A CANCELLATION OF THE DATE AND THE UWI HAD PROCEEDED WITH THE NECESSARY COUNTRY CLEARANCES AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS IN THE REGION. THE UWI HAS HAD THEIR OWN INTERESTS AND CAPABILITIES IN THE AREAS OF COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY AND A REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS EFFORT WHICH PRE-DATES THE CURRENT TAB/AID/SAT ACTIVITIES HERE INCLUDING THE VERY SUCCESSFUL USAID/ UWI DIALOG REMOTE DATA SEARCHING DEMONSTRATION. THEIR RESPONSE TO AID/W ATS PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES THUS HAD BEEN POSITIVE AS IT COINCIDED WITH MANY OF THEIR OWN INTERESTS.

2. THE UWI INFORMED US THAT THE PROPOSED DECEMBER DATE WOULD NOT BE MEANINGFUL IN THAT IT WOULD COME AT THE END
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OF THE ACADEMIC TERM AND THE BEGINNING OF THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS, WHICH LASTS UNTIL MID-JANUARY. IF OCTOBER DATE IS DEFINITELY OUT UWI WOULD SEE NO ALTERNATIVE UNTIL SOMETIME NEXT YEAR.

3. IN THE MEANTIME UWI HAS ALREADY FINALIZED MANY OF THE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE TRINIDAD AND BARBADOS CAMPUSES

INCLUDING THE FOLLOW-ON ACTIVITIES AFTER THE INITIAL
VICE-CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH ON THE DEMONSTRATION.

4. CONSEQUENTLY, IN VIEW OF APPARENT INABILITY OF AID/W
TO MEET ORIGINALLY PLANNED DATE, UWI IS OPENING DISCUSSIONS
WITH JAMINTEL TODAY REGARDING THE POSSIBLE USE OF THE
COMMERCIAL SATELLITE WITH SOME SUBSIDY ASSISTANCE FROM
JAMINTEL IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT A MODIFIED PROGRAM FOR
PERHAPS A TOTAL OF ONE HOUR. THIS WOULD ENABLE THEM TO
INITIATE A DEMONSTRATION AS HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED. THE
PLANNED FOLLOW THROUGH OUTREACH ACTIVITIES WOULD THEN BE
POSTPONED TO A LATER TIME, POSSIBLY NEXT YEAR.

5. THE UWI ALSO INTIMATED THAT IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY
FOR THEM TO SEEK SOME ADDITIONAL FUNDING IF THE
ARRANGEMENTS WITH JAMINTEL PROVE FEASIBLE. FOR THIS
THEY WOULD PROBABLY PLAN TO APPROACH THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY FUND (ECF) OR SOME OTHER EXTERNAL AGENCY.

6. FYI THE MISSION IS QUITE SURPRISED AND DISMAYED
AT THIS TURN OF EVENTS WHICH CAN DETRACT FROM USAID'S
EFFORTS OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS IN DEVELOPING WHAT HAS
BECOME A CLOSE AND EXCELLENT WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH
THE KEY PERSONNEL OF THE UWI.

7. CONSEQUENTLY, MISSION WISHES TO INQUIRE OF AID/W:
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(A) IS THER STILL A POSSIBILITY THAT THE DEMONSTRATION
CAN BE CARRIED OUT ON THE ORIGINAL DATES? WE NOTICED
YOUR CABLE SUGGESTED A CHANGE OF DATES; (B) IF NOT, WHAT
IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOME FUNDING ASSISTANCE (LEVEL
NOT YET DETERMINED) FOR UWI TO DO A SHORTENED VERSION
VIA JAMINTEL WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A PRESENTATION DURING
THE BROADCAST OF THE FOLLOW-ON AID PROGRAM WHICH WOULD
TAKE PLACE SOMETIME NEXT YEAR?

8. PLEASE ADVISE.
IRVING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SATELLITES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KINGST05371
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770330-0507
Format: TEL
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770975/aaaaclee.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6b108648-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 211607
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1310847
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY SATELLITE DEMONSTRATION - UWI DEVELOPMENT OUTREACH PROGRAM
TAGS: TECH, ETEL, JM, US, UWI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6b108648-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009